

**Amendments to the Specification**

On page 1 of the specification, after the title and before the first heading, please insert the following:

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**Cross Reference to Related Applications**

This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/687,459, filed October 13, 2000 (now allowed), which claims priority to European Patent Application No. 00402326.3, filed August 21, 2000, which applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1: Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves of the fibrosis markers function combining six (alpha2-macroglobulin, alpha2-microglobulin, total bilirubin, gamma globulin, apo A1, and GGT) or ten biochemical factors (same plus albumin, alpha1-microglobulin, beta globulin and ALT) and the age and gender. The areas under the curve were not different:  $0.853 \pm 0.02$  and  $0.851 \pm 0.02$  respectively.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line <sup>20</sup>~~21~~, with the following *ya 2/19* amended paragraph:

Patients included in the study belonged to a single center cohort, named Hepatitis C Pitie-Salpetriere, (DOSVIRC). This cohort included all the patients with hepatitis C (defined as a positive serology by at least a second generation ELISA test) followed in the liver and